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TLS

THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

FRIDAY • JUNE 18 1976 • No. 3,875 • 18p

THE THIRTIES

The making of
'The Faber Book
of Modern Verse'
by Janet Adam Smith

'The Auden Generation'

Raymond Chandler
by Patricia Highsmith

The Hanoverian Hume

The anthropology
of women

Italian imperialism

'Le Monde';

Stuart psephology; Dilthey;
'Les Faux Amis'

Henry James in the
Abbey, by Leon Edel

Fiction: William Trevor,
Rex Stout, Shusaku Endo



A scene from the Group Theatre production of the Agamemnon of Aeschylus, in Louis MacNeice's translation, 1936: the photograph was taken by Humphrey Spender and appears in the 'Young Writers of the Thirties' exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery opening next Friday. Further details are given on page 729.

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L'Anglais tel qu'on ne le parle pas

By John Wells

MAXIME KOESSLER:
Les Faux Amis
Des vocabulaires anglais et américain
544pp. Paris: Vulbert, 120fr.

Imagine, if you can, a world gone mad, in which the population of North America, except for a few quaint pockets of resistance, speaks French; where, in addition to the Gauloises-and-gerlic-thickened resonances of debased Parisian slang from Australia and South Africa and the grandiose tones of the Quai d'Orsay from official India, French pop-songs throbbed incessantly from our Japanese transistors and the sleepy nasal of the Camargue drained among the rancorous on television, where, what is more, writers, French musicians, artists, and public conveniences—imagine all this, and you will begin to sympathize with the sense of siege at present felt by the traditional enemies across the English Channel.

A purge is now on to confine English and American words to the equivalent of Arab bidonvilles where they will not contaminate the Frenchness of the language. Commerce, and more specifically the spread of American business interests, has been identified as the most provocative means by which these unwanted immigrants are smuggled into the country, and the Law of December 31, 1975, decrees that all contracts and agreements drawn up on French soil must now be written in French. The same law forbids to quote the official translation of the text, "the employment of all the expressions and expressions in the advertisement and sale of goods where there exists a traditional French language," offences being punishable under the law for the suppression of fraud.

But it is more difficult to detect fraud, or indeed to erect defences against any kind of the mysterious and

magical world of everyday language. Like ghostly armies of the unemployed, rival vocabularies shift in the night, sometimes in a happy moment of translation, they succeed in occupying the same point of meaning, like angels jostling on the head of a pin, their outlines only faintly overlapping; more often, however, they are in a state of uncomfortable compromise, the French word dissembling the premises of its English or American counterpart. But in many cases, as we ourselves have learnt in the past with restaurant, cliché and matinee, the native vocabulary capitulates and cedes to the invader.

Some employers of language may actually welcome these colourful new arrivals, feeling that they do the job as well or better than their predecessors. But in France, at least, their coming seems to produce an irrational fear that the old French, intellectual and emotional positions abandoned by the native vocabulary could decay and disappear entirely; that new words—"bistro", "self", "pub"—bring with them new ways of living, new structures, and presumably new propensities amounting to an insidious domination. French, as one champion of linguistic purity puts it, "is becoming an underdeveloped language, the language of a colonized country."

Maxime Koessler, compiler of *Les Faux Amis*, a handbook for translators, shares these feelings to a marked degree. The book first appeared in 1926, seven years after the French ceased at Versailles to be the only official diplomatic language, and was subtitled "Les Pièges du vocabulaire anglais". The present edition has been extended to include a third official diplomatic language in 1945.

At first sight, M. Koessler is a warm, twinkling anglicist ("Essays de rendre la langue d'Arabe"), signalling his schoolmasterly jokes with a row of

little dots, parsing constantly in footnotes to press the hand of brush the whisky cheek of a dear old friend or colleague. He is clearly moved by Louis Cuzamian's pompous parody of commination, in a letter about his having written a "oeuvre vraiment national, un ajoutant un lien modeste à tous ceux qui unissent nos deux pays nationaux; but how modest the bond, and how true the friendship it is left to the reader to discover.

The initial images are hostile, and milky. English and American are "langues conquérantes". M. Koessler quotes an expert on translating machines as saying, "is a bastion that cannot be taken or outflanked by the enemy." But gradually the French bring with them "malices", French is suffering from "ce perpétuel empoisonnement", and "le mal gagne de proche en proche". When, finally, takes out his calipers and genealogies to examine several thousand individual words for their racial purity, the consistent English liberal may find himself bristling a little at the principle.

The "faux amis" of the book are, as it were, the *pièces noires* of the Norman Conquest. Old survivors in a linguistically conservative English—"conference", "lecture", "control"—and so on—indistinguishable but for the odd accent from the metropolitan French, but now their old homeland with its familiar practices picked up during the centuries abroad. They may look like French words, even be generally acknowledged as French words, but M. Koessler sees it as his mission to unmask them.

Fortunately for us perhaps, despite the awe-inspiring mass of material he has lightheartedly assembled, some of which will be of interest to the English student of French, M. Koessler's method is more in mind of Peter Sellers than in mind of Heinrich Himmler. Take, for instance, the case of the innocent "buffet". The word is lined up in the columns of the suspect, under the lights, and dragged out by M. Koessler tells us from his dossier, "at on a buffet." He Clouseau comes to judgment, pivoting taken in. "So runs the English rhyme. But the little personage, never so seated as one might think, returns which would bring about a sustained reduction in the number of crimes.

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WELFARE ECONOMICS: A Liberal Reassessment

THE PRESS

The tarnished halo

By Neil McInnes

MICHEL LEGRIS:
"Le Monde" tel qu'il est
210pp. Paris: Plon, 30 fr.

When "Le Monde" tel qu'il est was published in March, the editor and the editor (also founder) of *Le Monde* printed a page-one box in the Paris evening daily addressed to the readers. They denounced the book as part of a "permanent campaign" conducted "by certain persons" to discredit the paper because of its "independence". "Insults degrade only their own authors", they concluded. Inside the paper, a venomous "review" of the book mentioned that its author had a legal case pending against *Le Monde*, and added that his enemies hated it because it could "live free", i.e. free of the chains of money that bind the rest of the press.

Second, M. Legris demonstrates, by the meticulous analysis of

press. When other papers reviewed the book, editors of *Le Monde* wrote letters of complaint, in one of which the editor-in-chief wrote that *Le Monde* had tried to stop Legris's book appearing. False, he said, we only asked "that, in conformity with the law, the name *Le Monde* not be printed in Gothic letters on the cover.

These events, posterior to the book, illustrate very nicely its main theme. Michel Legris says *Le Monde* "deceals itself to be absolutely infallible". It must have shown, as though it had a halo and as if it were indecent to criticize it. Indeed, unless they thought something like that, there was no need for its editors to pousser de grands cris about this book. An editor like *Le Monde* can survive hostile examinations only if its reputation for absolute infallibility does not.

Second, M. Legris demonstrates, by the meticulous analysis of

The Do's and Don'ts of Goebbels

By Ernest Bramsted

FRITZ SÄNGER:
Politik der Tuschungen
Mitsbrauch der Presse im Dritten Reich, Weisungen, Informationen, Notizen 1933-1939
432pp. Vienna: Europaverlag, Sch. 28.

From 1935 to 1943 Fritz Säger was a member of the Berlin office of the *Frankfurter Zeitung*. He attended the daily press conferences in Goebbels's propaganda ministry and wrote down the directives issued to the journalists. They were both binding and confidential, and had to be destroyed at regular intervals. Despite official threats of severe punishment for treason, Säger and some of his colleagues managed to preserve more than 5000 directives which are now deposited in the Federal Archives at Koblenz. This book draws on a representative fraction of them for the years 1933-39.

Interprets them with the help of personal notes and other primary information. In this way it offers a good deal of insight into the well-organized propaganda machine of the Third Reich with its constant, though often contradictory, "Do's and Don'ts". In addition to the general conferences for the press there were sometimes a further session, the "Nachbesprechung", confined to the representatives of the major national dailies, during which the spokesmen like Hans Fritzsche, the head of Goebbels's press department, and Karl Schmidt, his opposite number in the foreign ministry, often expressed views which did not tally with the options previously spread officially.

When, before this selected audience, "official" news items and controversies were sometimes "unmasked" or cynically interpreted, this was done with a purpose. The propaganda managers hoped that such "information" would leak through and even reach the public by way of rumour. On the other hand news items which the foreign press were in Germany often given, the intention was to mislead the reader to create false hopes, to evoke positive or negative feelings.

Many of the directives quoted here, accompanied or followed by major political events such as the reoccupation of the Rhineland, the outbreak of the Second World War, the international crises of 1938 and 1939. But perhaps no one has ever read so many of the Weisungen and instructions before the celebrations of May Day 1936, the journalists were told that their leaders in the "new Reich" should not be intimidated by the "old Reich" and should not be intimidated by the "old Reich" and should not be intimidated by the "old Reich".

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SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y.
Postmaster: This publication is published weekly except for two issues combined annually in May and June. A report in the May issue on a love affair

between an Iraqi princess and a German waiter must not be repeated, as the Iraqi government had objected to it and German trade relations with that country might suffer. Also it should not be mentioned that King George VI was a Freemason as owing to the official objection to Freemasonry in Germany "such a statement would amount to an insult."

Equally unacceptable was further discussion of the question of whether Friedrich von Schiller, then dead for more than a century, might have been murdered. Sometimes contradictory instructions followed each other within a few days. When, early in 1936, new party buildings were erected in Munich, the press was asked to describe them under the new, but already "historic", term "Germans" style. A week later this term was sharply revoked, only to be recommended again soon afterwards. Small wonder that the press people often felt bewildered and confused. The directives which were now deposited in the Federal Archives at Koblenz. This book draws on a representative fraction of them for the years 1933-39.

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Postmaster: This publication is published weekly except for two issues combined annually in May and June. A report in the May issue on a love affair

numerous texts, that *Le Monde* is a "subtle" and "sly" paper. He describes "one of the favourite methods of *Le Monde*: playing on the association of ideas that are furiously called up by words". The editors' protests about "independence" and "living free" are perfect examples. They suggest Legris has joined a conspiracy of sinister interests which represent the paper's sturdy independence of the money-bags. On the contrary, M. Legris shows that *Le Monde* has become a highly successful commercial enterprise at the same time as being, he charges, infiltrated by young ultra-leftists recruited after the troubles of 1938. His point is that *Le Monde* (by the happy accident of its birth) has always been independent but that this has not saved it from a political degeneration. By suggesting that money is the only cause of perversion of press freedom, *Le Monde*'s editors are distracting attention from a valid point. M. Legris has made.

Finally, he complains that *Le Monde* is occasionally expert at half-truths, "false truths, true lies". The point about the Gothic logo illustrates that. My copy of Abel Chatelet's 1962 book *Le Monde et ses lecteurs* has the newspaper title in Gothic on the cover, flyleaf and title page. It was a book generally favourable to *Le Monde* and that might be why the editors did not then demand "conformity with the law".

M. Legris, who worked for the paper for sixteen years, overstates his case against it, but he manages to give chapter and verse for two general impressions that no careful reader could possibly avoid. The first is that since Jacques Fauvet succeeded Hubert Beuve-Méry in 1969, the paper's policy has been pushed leftwards, until it is now the champion of the union of the left, i.e. the union of the interests of the left to defend the Communist Party when it thinks needful. The second, and quite distinct point, is

that whatever M. Fauvel has done intentionally at *Le Monde*, he has unintentionally acquired among his staff a number of ultra-leftists who demand, and sometimes get, the right to angle stories and headlines to their political slant. M. Legris shows this by studying the paper's reporting on Portugal, Cambodia and Israel.

He spoils his case with the preposterous claim that whenever *Le Monde* is accurate, fair and intelligent—which, after all, it still is most of the time—that is just a trick to put over the ultra-leftist propaganda more effectively. That way, he hits *Le Monde* going and coming. It is wrong especially when it is right. This exaggeration makes his book tiresome.

Still, no one who reads it will ever see *Le Monde* in the same light again. He will have become a more critical reader of that excellent, but alas, disappearing paper. In particular, his mind will awake every time he runs across *Le Monde*'s characteristic forms of argument—for example, pretending to be rigorously fair and impartial in refusing to choose between two parties, when one party happens to be the assassin and the other his victim.

One wishes there were such a book for each of the great newspapers of the world: a critical and preferably hostile study of each paper's way of filtering the news and presenting it. An article would do for most, provided it were of the quality of George Lichtblau's classic on the *New York Times* "All The News That's Fit to Print", *Commentary*, September, 1965. For most of us, however, it is our political world—is made by newspapers, and yet most readers do not know what lies and tricks papers have. Gossip about external influences on, and divisions within, a paper are of little help alongside careful study of the ways it selects and lays out news, and especially the means it uses to suggest more than it explicitly says. Oddly, enough, educated Russians are very good at this. They can read between the lines of *Pravda* better than we can decode our own free press. Frenchmen now have some help in doing that with their own best newspaper.

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Revolutionary rhythms

The next time there is a demo on the Left Bank, and the motorcade rises and falls along the Rue de la Harpe, the odds are that somewhere among the ranks of chanting militants will be Louis-Jean Calvet, a man as ready to analyse a good left-wing slogan as he is to shout one. M. Calvet, who teaches linguistics at the Sorbonne and also works as a journalist for *Politique Hebdo* on the side, has transcended the embarrassing gap between theory and praxis by publishing a book called *La Production révolutionnaire* (202pp, Paris: Payot, 55fr) in which he takes a level, semi-scientific look at such items of contemporary folklore as slogans, posters and revolutionary songs.

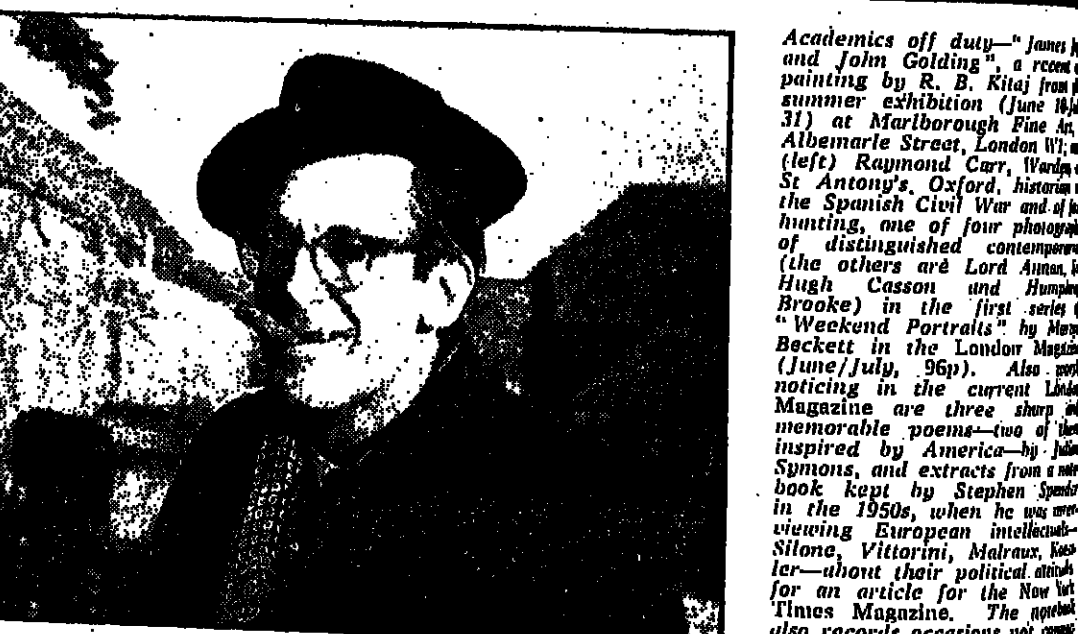
As if to show what a simple matter it is for the professional linguist to renounce the verbal simplicities of the barricades, M. Calvet offers a fearsome definition of the slogan as "une production linguistique passée au filtre de la pureté, au point où elle se transforme en un acte de violence." Or "une seule solution à la masturbation", the catchy long and short of which were apparently used to taunt the notoriously primi Jean Ruyver during the presidential campaign of 1927.

A general impression of M. Calvet's book is that it is sensible and, seeing what a splendid subject he has chosen, rather dull. And as so often with French scholarship, someone really ought to have had a look at the examples he gives of English usage. In the field of his short list of Anglo-Saxon baby-talk, where the same sound is repeated, contains an altogether new concept in train-noises, in "poof-poo".

Bed and bored

"You will learn no new positions from me," says Jay Kuten, a New England psychiatrist. He has written a book about love and sexuality which is a far cry from the sex-technology of Masters and Johnson and an equally far cry from the bland placebo about mature relationships and "insights" which often seem the only alternative. *Coming Together/Coming Apart* (176pp, Corgi, 13.75) has a thesis. It is that being in love can go two ways. It can stimulate the lost Paradise, the symbiosis between mother and baby, where all separateness is a threat. In this case, the man and woman will be conciliatory, each will repress their differences in a cause of harmony. This relationship will seem to outsiders the very model of togetherness. But the happy pair will have lost all sexual interest in each other. If a couple are to remain happy in bed, they must expect a rougher time for a longer and separation are the price of adult sexuality. And "Eden is a striving and grows in a dialectic of closeness and separation"—if you make a space between you, you immediately long to bridge it. This involves being aware of personal boundaries and putting up with a good deal of anger and anxiety. But, anger and anxiety are a mod part of the package of love.

"So if you want to stay in love, you must be prepared to stay angry, anxious and even violent," Dr Kuten quotes from Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*. The film *Morgan* lands dignity to a loving man. You can take your pick: the choice is clear. "Sexuality can be developed, but it can be maintained only at the price of absolute closeness, only in the presence of separation." One would like to ask Dr Kuten whether it might not largely be a matter of temperament rather than marriage; anything for a quiet life, new positions. It is new dispositions that might be required. Meanwhile, my reader bearing the scent of battle, may take a cooler view of his situation, for fighting, so far from being a bad sign, tells that love is alive and well.



Depressive Drinking

Say when I
Glass, filled again,
sadder than tears, poured in,
torn indeed,
and surely what we need—
rememberers forget
unhappiness this way—and yet,
where lemon makes the third,
it's no Blue Bird, or feather of that bird!

True joy
is not so cloy
nor needs to be
invoked by this and three
now gathered here,
so bitter with the fear
that time will still run on,
until the drinking time is gone,
the glasses put away,
when happy night becomes unhappy day.

Gavin Ewart

Claiming

From conflicting layers of brick and stone
yellow stings the eye:
these hot-cinder flowers,
volcano-born immigrants,
side with massed ranks
of summer fireweed:
borders of purple and gold
have breached the city walls,
taken root in ground
we have defaulted on.

Rodney Pybus

The Italian search for space

By Christopher Seton-Watson

EDWARD A. WEBSTER:
Industrial Imperialism in Italy
1908-1915
University of California
Press, £14.80.

AUDINO G. SEGRE:
Fourth Shore
The Italian Colonization of Libya
Chicago University of Chicago Press,
£2.15.

Two books make an illuminating addition to our knowledge of Italian imperialism, particularly as they deal with very different facets of the phenomenon. Segre is concerned with Libya, and covers the history from the Italian conquest in 1911 to the achievement of independence in 1951 and the expulsion of the Italian residents in 1970. Richard Webster is concerned with Italian aspirations in the Balkans and Asia Minor between 1908 and 1914. Professor Webster's theme is "proletarian imperialism", the imperialism of the oppressed, against the imperialism of the oppressor, which had its ideal in the massive settlement of Italian peasants under the Italian flag on the African soil. This would be a "fourth shore" to Italy's existing shores, the Adriatic, Ionian and Tyrrhenian. Professor Webster's theme is different: he claims that Italian imperialism in his period was essentially industrial, concerned with itself with ports, railways and mining projects, and that the "population-outlet gambit" was mere propaganda and window-dressing.

The first half of Professor Webster's book analyses the "economic foundations". Most of his attention is directed to the key industrial sectors of iron and steel, armaments, shipbuilding, and motor-cars. All these (except possibly the last), and the banks which financed them, owed their creation and growth to close links with the state. Professor Webster seems to feel a sense of moral aversion to this "apollonian industrialization". But though his stricture on the "social and economic errors" of the two pre-war generations are some- times far-fetched, he is clearly right in claiming that the distinctive origin of what he calls Italy's "industrial imperialism" was its economic imbalance. He sums up his argument as follows:

"Thus, precariously perched on the outer edge of the industrial world, the Italians made up for their economic deficiencies with political audacity. A restless and adventurous spirit entered their politics from 1911 on... (indeed, century Italian imperialism arose from a need to export industrial goods, systems and skills, technical and even entrepreneurial. Italy was not an exporter of capital, like some other great powers, but her other export, need, explained her drive for exclusive colonial space."

After the First World War, during which he presided over a Committee for Industrial Mobilization, he served from 1921 to 1925 as governor of Tripolitania (in which guise he appears in Professor Segre's book) and then for several years as Mussolini's Minister of Finance. Professor Webster has been fortunate in gaining access to Segre's correspondence in both state and bank archives. His discovery shows how badly a full-scale biography of the man is needed.

Professor Segre's concise, comprehensive and admirably lucid survey, *Fourth Shore*, also opens up new perspectives for the English reader. He displays an impressive mastery of the published sources, official and unofficial, and has also made excellent use of the archives of the Italian Colonial Ministry and the Institute of African Agriculture. He tells a complex story of conflicting policies and aspirations both in Italy and on the fourth shore. In 1921 Volpi set out to develop Libya along the lines he had practised in Montenegro; and he practised in Montenegro by private capitalism, employing indigenous labour. The role of the state was to be confined to the pro-

Professor Webster's learning is impressive. He has taken more not only of the many studies of Italian industry and biographies of leading industrialists, but also of the industrial and commercial periodicals of the time. His unpublished sources include the papers of Giolitti and other prominent politicians in the state archives; the files of the Foreign Ministry dealing with the Ottoman Empire; and—clearest of all—the archives of the Banca Commerciale Italiana, a leading force behind Italy's industrial imperialism. His book, therefore, opens up many new perspectives for the English reader.

In two important respects, however, *Industrial Imperialism in Italy 1908-1915* is disappointing. First, though a purely chronological treatment would clearly not have served its author's purpose, it is, nevertheless, confusing to find the same events, and many of the same personalities, repeated independently in the two separate halves into which the book is divided, the domestic outlook of industrial imperialism and its external manifestations. The separate treatment of the Italian and the Ottoman Empires in the final chapters also causes confusion. Second, Professor Webster does not always retain command of his sources. For instance, Italy's part in the negotiation of a major international loan to Turkey in 1913-14 is given as six pages, while the final chapter also causes confusion. Second, Professor Webster does not always retain command of his sources. For instance, Italy's part in the negotiation of a major international loan to Turkey in 1913-14 is given as six pages, while the final chapter also causes confusion.

But though Professor Segre gives full credit to Balbo's qualities as a leader and organizer, he declines to be dazzled by the man and his achievement. In the way of many of Balbo's contemporaries, Italian and foreign, were able to see his visible results, in the shape of roads, model villages, schools, well-kept archaeological sites and grandiose fascist-style monuments and public buildings. The desert really had begun "to blossom like a rose" and in 1943 the director of agriculture in British Military Administration praised the "technical conception of the colonization as 'magnificent' and added that the detailed organization was 'of a very high order indeed'."

Both authors give attention to the question which all students of imperialism are bound to ask: did political or economic factors predominate in the case of Libya? The answer is pretty clear. Italy had staked her claim to Tripoli ever since the French seized Tunis in 1881, and by 1911 the diplomatic preparation was complete. Italy had no illusions about a promised land for Italian peasants or capitalists; he saw that time was running short if Italy was not to be left out of the imperialist race. His declaration to Tripoli from the Turkish was political, he regarded it as a "historical inevitability". Under Fascism the political motive is still predominant. When Mussolini visited Libya in 1926 he spoke not of capitalist development but of Italy's "irrepressible will" to put out her imperial destiny. From its Libyan base Italy was to expand its power in the Mediterranean, while assuming the role of protector of Islam. Federalist, Mussolini told him that the colonization of Libya "must be a means more than an end"; it was a made excellent use of the archives of the Italian Colonial Ministry and the Institute of African Agriculture. He tells a complex story of conflicting policies and aspirations both in Italy and on the fourth shore. In 1921 Volpi set out to develop Libya along the lines he had practised in Montenegro; and he practised in Montenegro by private capitalism, employing indigenous labour. The role of the state was to be confined to the pro-

vision of cheap land (expropriated from the natives) and fiscal advantages; political ends were to be subordinated to economic means. Only with the appointment of Italo Balbo as governor in 1934 did large-scale colonization begin.

Balbo was no capitalist nor had he ever been directly involved in colonial problems. First and foremost he was a Fascist "man of action" and it was a Fascist programme which he imposed upon Libya. In 1938-39, 30,000 Italian colonists were settled in mass, expelling from Italy in a glacial national publicity and what Professor Segre fairly calls "part country carnival, part military parade". The aim was to settle 500,000 by 1950. Expense was ignored; technical and economic problems would be overcome by "the will to succeed". Professor Segre's five chapters on the Balbo era are the most vivid of his book. By quoting from contemporary sources he succeeds in recapturing the spirit of the enterprise, with its mixture of rhetoric and practical achievement. It was, he says, "one of fascism's most spectacular feats". During the Second World War many thousands of British soldiers were able to see his visible results, in the shape of roads, model villages, schools, well-kept archaeological sites and grandiose fascist-style monuments and public buildings. The desert really had begun "to blossom like a rose" and in 1943 the director of agriculture in British Military Administration praised the "technical conception of the colonization as 'magnificent' and added that the detailed organization was 'of a very high order indeed'."

The primacy of politics over economics is less clear in the case of Italy's "industrial imperialism". In the New East Professor Webster declares on page 123 that "it is impossible to separate political and economic forces in the history of a state or to assign priorities to one or the other." He then proceeds to the summer of 1912, he claims, the Banca Commerciale Italiana began "to take part in the day-to-day implementation of Italian foreign policy" while the Banca di Roma's activities in Tripoli before 1911 were "as much political as economic". So far we may agree with him. But when he argues that the friction in 1908 between Austria-Hungary and Italy over the Sanjak and Danube-Adriatic railway projects "was the first indication that Italy might reverse her alliances", he is certainly claiming too much. The first sign of a shift away from the Triple Alliance had already occurred in 1905 at the Algeiras Conference. There were also two other powerful political factors working in the same direction: traditional jealousy and the desire for a "fourth shore", which Professor Webster underestimates, and Italian determination, after the birth of the Entente Cordiale in 1904, not to become involved in war with Britain.

It is no doubt true that Italian foreign policy from 1911 to 1915 "admirably fitted the interests and alliances of her industries, especially the heavy industries most dependent on the State". Nevertheless the evidence that this policy was in fact inextricably bound up with the economic factors is abundant. Giolitti's political decision of 1911 is only the most important of many examples. The exact nature of Giolitti's relations with bankers and industrialists remains obscure; but the fact that his director-general of the Banca Commerciale Italiana, Otto Joel, whom Professor Webster describes as "a sort of court banker to Giolitti", referred to the latter as "il padrone", indicated that political priorities prevailed. The same can be said of Di San Giuliano, Giolitti's Foreign Minister in 1911-14. As Professor Webster's researches reveal, he took a "close personal interest in Italian economic penetration of Asia Minor, yet never allowed it to compromise Italy's more important political interests in the Adriatic. He might employ bankers and businessmen as his agents, but he himself kept control of high policy."

Professor Webster terminates his study in 1945, not in 1915 as his title would indicate, and therefore does no more than hint at the role of economic factors behind Italy's entry into the First World War. The documents show, however, that in the negotiations of March-April, 1915 which led to the conclusion of the Treaty of London, Italy's economic interests hardly received a mention; it was upon Sonnino's insistence on securing a strategically secure land frontier, and naval domination of the Adriatic, that the negotiations turned. It seems likely that the same strategic and political priorities prevailed throughout the war and into the post-war period, but that story remains to be told. It is to be hoped that we shall find a historian of a calibre equal to that of Professor Segre and Professor Webster.

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DEVON

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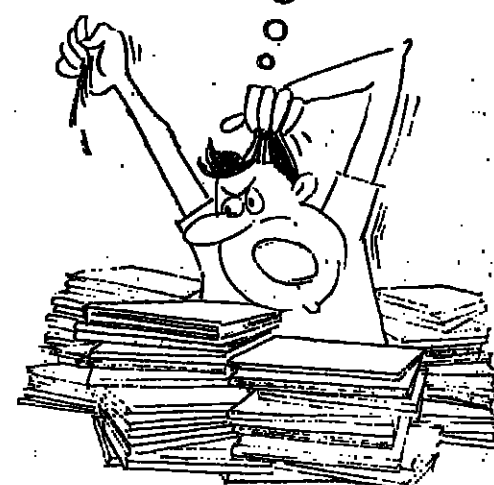
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